GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:303
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
RECOMMENDATIONS OF TALWAR COMMITTEE
Mahato Shri Sunil Kumar;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Talwar Committee has made any recommendations in regard to postmen (Dak Sewaks) working in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the recommendations which have been accepted and the time by which these are likely to be implemented; and

(d) the recommendations which have been rejected by the Government and the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations made by the Justice Talwar Committee can be classified under the following broad categories:

(i) Status and Nomenclature of Extra Departmental Agents.

(ii) Financial Benefits:
Grant of Pay Scales and increments,
Grant of Pension,
Put off duty allowance, and
Retirement benefits, etc.

(iii) Employment conditions:
Enhancement of educational qualification,
Age of entry,
Working hours,
Transfer liability, and
Leave facility, etc.

(iv) Re-organization:-
No further creation of Extra Departmental posts,
No Extra Departmental Sub Post Office/Branch Post Office to be opened for next 10 years,
Total freeze on filling up vacant Extra Departmental posts, and
Abolition of vacant posts

(v) Public facility:-
Saving Bank withdrawal limit be increased.

(c) & (d) Approval of the Cabinet was obtained for a package of benefits to be extended to the Gramin Dak Sevaks.

The following recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee have already been accepted:

(i) Increase in the allowance of Gramin Dak Sevaks by a factor of 3.5 for a period from 01-01-1996 to 28-02-1998.

(ii) Introduction of the concept of Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) in respect of Gramin Dak Sevaks in lieu of monthly allowance related to work load w.e.f. 01-03-1998.

(iii) Increase in the amount of ex-gratia gratuity admissible to Gramin Dak Sevaks from Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 18,000/-.

(iv) Introduction of the concept of paid leave for Gramin Dak Sevaks @ 10 days for every half year without the provision of carry forward or encashment.

(v) Increase in office maintenance allowance admissible to Gramin Dak Sevaks Sub Postmasters and Branch Postmasters from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 50/- per month.

(vi) Even in the absence of any recommendations by Justice Talwar Ccommittee in its report, provision of Severance Amount of Rs. 30,000/- in case of retirement or death, if the period of continuous employment of Gramin Dak Sevaks employee is minimum 20 years and Rs. 20,000/- if a Gramin Dak Sevak has completed 15-20 years of continuous employment, has been made. On absorption to regular departmental post, the Severance Amount of Rs. 20,000/- is payable after 15 years of continuous employment.

The following recommendations of the Justice Talwar Committee have been rejected as these recommendations were not found to be relevant for the Extra Departmental System:

1. Gramin Dak Sevaks with less than three years service be terminated by giving them fixed lump sum amount, not below six months` pay and allowances in the recommended grades per year of service.

2. Gramin Dak Sevaks over 60 years to be retired subject to payment of all pensionary benefits recommended by Justice Talwar Committee.

3. Minimum educational qualification raised to 10 + 2 for Gramin Dak Sevaks Sub Postmasters/Gramin Dak Sevaks Branch Postmasters, upto matriculation for Gramin Dak Sevaks (Mail Deliverer) and Gramin Dak Sevaks (Stamp Vendor) and no weightage to be given for higher educational qualification.

4. Retirement age to be reduced from 65 to 60 years.

5. Maximum age of entry to be 35 years.

6. Total freeze in filling up posts.

7. All vacant posts to be abolished. Work to be managed by combination of duties. In exigencies of service, posts may be filled by redeployment.

8. Gramin Dak Sevaks to be made liable to transfer within accounts office jurisdiction or maximum within sub-division.

9. No further creation of posts of Gramin Dak Sevaks.

10. No Gramin Dak Sevaks Branch Post Offices to be opened at least for the next 10 years.